

WAR DELAYS ARMORY IN TORRANCE

Realtors Urge Cleanup of City Gates Building Awaits Guard's Return

FIX WESTERN APPROACHES, ASKS RYAN

Torrance - Lomita Realty Board is willing to spearhead a community drive to improve entrances to the City of Torrance, C. J. "Paddy" Ryan, newly elected president of the board, told City Manager George W. Stevens and the Chamber of Commerce this week.

He asks for cooperation and discussion of ways and means to beautify the Western avenue approaches to the City of Torrance, as well as the erection of signs promoting Torrance.

Especially important is the intersection of Plaza del Amo and Western (where the city dump is located) and Torrance boulevard and Western (at the Pacific Electric right-of-way) Ryan said.

Ryan was assured of full support of the new Board of Directors of the Realty Board at the regular January meeting.

WANTS TO HELP

"The Torrance-Lomita Realty Board always is interested in any civic enterprise or improvement that is beneficial to our area, and we will be glad to lend our support whenever called upon to do so," Ryan said. "Therefore, since we have been asked by property owners and business men of Torrance to lend our support toward the cleaning up of the approaches to Torrance from the newly completed Western avenue, as well as the erection of signs pointing to Torrance, we have assured them that we would be very glad to do all we can."

"We believe that a concentrated effort of all civic organizations will be necessary to achieve this objective, and our board will be very glad to coordinate this movement."

(Editor's Note - We already have told Mr. Ryan that we heartily agree and that the Press will do all in its power to achieve his aims in this worthy program.)

Services Of 4 City Commission Members Expire

Notification of appointment expiration of four members of city commissions was received by the City Council Tuesday night.

The Civil Service Commission notified the Council of the Jan. 15, 1951 expiration of the term of Dan Desmond. Councilman Nick Dralle informed the Council that Desmond will serve again if reappointed.

Expirations of terms of R. Deininger, J. Hall, and Al Gianni of the Planning Commission this month was told the Council in a letter from the Planning Commission.

All appointments or reappointments were referred by the Council to a later meeting.

Three Local Men in Japan Get Promotion

A U. S. AIR FORCE BASE IN JAPAN—The promotion of three Torrance men, all now serving with the 452nd Bomb Wing (Light) in Japan, has been announced by Brig. Gen. Luther W. Sweetser Jr., commanding general of the wing.

Ernest Venema, husband of Mrs. Marjorie Venema, 1716 Watson Ave., has been promoted to master sergeant. Sergeant Venema is the non-commissioned officer in charge of the motor pool and oversees all transportation at this base for the 452nd Bomb Wing.

Promoted to sergeant was Forrest M. Mutschler, whose wife,



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SECOND YEAR

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JAZZING it in the Dixieland mood for the Annual Torrance High School Band Concert set for January 26 is band instructor Harold M. Dunn (second from left) and members of the Torrance High School Band. The second half of the program this year will consist of the depiction of five periods in the history of jazz. Members of the band are, left to right, Ross Sciarotta, Harold Dunn, Lody Popovich, Bill Crawford, Bob Fickett, Joe Carcerano, Jack Beeman, and Wallace Sanford. (Photo by Photo Arts Studio)

Water Basin Asks State Aid In Water Crisis

Water recharge wells and water spreading grounds will be constructed to prevent intrusion of ocean water now rapidly destroying the West Basin ground-water reservoir, if a bill presented Monday to the State Legislature is adopted.

The bill, in the form of an enabling act, includes an appropriation of State funds and was introduced on behalf of the West Basin Water Association, of which Torrance is a member.

Still in skeleton form, the bill calls for emergency funds to prevent salt water destruction of West Basin wells by construction of water spreading grounds located about one-half mile inland along the coast from Playa Del Rey south to the Palos Verdes Hills and across the harbor area through Wilmington to Signal Hill.

Suitable water will be injected into the wells and spreading grounds in volume sufficient to raise ground-water levels along the coast to above sea level to stop intrusion of ocean water.

PILOT OPERATION If the bill is enacted, this plan to preserve the West Basin (Continued on Page Two)

Dimes Chairman Hear Guest Speaker Today

Guest speaker Mrs. Bea Wright will highlight the March of Dimes instruction meeting noon today at the General Petroleum Office, announced Mrs. Clara Conner, postmaster, and chairman of the Dime campaign in Torrance.

Campaign chairmen will make plans at this meeting for the local Dimes drive. Kick-off of the campaign is planned for January 15.

Mrs. Wright has travelled over 20,000 miles in the interest of the March of Dimes. She was, at one time, a victim of polio.

Local chairmen are Charlton A. Mewborn, vice chairman; George W. Post of the Torrance National Bank, treasurer; Marvin Miller of the Bank of America, operations division chairman; Bob Leech, promotions chairman; Lucille Stroh, women's division chairman of Torrance; and Mrs. Betty Lou Keele, women's division chairman of Seaside Rancho. Mrs. Conner said that sub-chairmen will also be appointed.

\$10,000 GOAL With this year's goal of \$10,000 for Torrance, Mrs. Conner announced that as one of the campaign's big events this year a Mother's Night Drive will be held.

More than \$6000 was received during last year's campaign. This is Mrs. Conner's second successive year in this post.

Anyone wishing to donate time or money for this worthy cause may contact Mrs. Conner at the Post Office in Torrance.

Four Torrance Youths Get Ranger Training

CAMP COOKE—Four Torrance youths this week were enroute to Ft. Benning, Ga. and 12 weeks of the Army's roughest training as Rangers.

They are Pfc. Richard A. McWhirter of 606 Calle de Arboles, Hollywood Riviera; Corporal Robert G. Buchanan of 1507 West 215th St.; Corporal Joseph C. LaPorte of 1562 218th St., and Pfc. Joe J. Anastasio of 22129 South Normandie St.

Upon completion of the rigorous training program, the entire group will return to Southern California's 40th Infantry Division to serve as the division's Ranger company.

Rangers, in the American Army, are much the same as the famous Commandos of the British forces. They are experts in quiet, swift and efficient killing. (Continued on Page Two)

New Employment Building Being Sought

The State of California, already paying rent on two buildings totalling 6500 square feet in area, in Torrance, now wants one building with a total area of 6000 square feet, it was reported this week.

Officials of the State Department of Employment said that the state needs larger quarters for its offices here. The building occupied by the State at 1623 Cravens avenue, owned by Mrs. Clara Conner, postmaster, contains 3300 square feet, but there is not sufficient ground space to enlarge the structure to the desired size, it was reported.

However, the state also is paying a huge rent for the unoccupied building at Cravens avenue and Marcelina avenue, used for about two months by the State Department of Social Welfare under the short-lived McLain-Williams administration. The structure was built for that department, and contains 3200 square feet of floor space. However, there is ground space enough to handle the state's needs, according to authorities.

It was the general belief among local real estate men that the state probably would have to negotiate a lease for a single building of at least 6000 feet, to handle the local employment office because of the unavailability of a single building of that size.

Torrance Pioneer, A. Mullin Passes

Arthur Mullin, one of the early pioneers of Torrance, passed away at his home, 1323 Cota ave., last Saturday. Mullin and his widow, Annie would have celebrated their fiftieth year of marriage on January 14, as they were married at Nova Scotia, Canada in 1901.

A resident of Torrance for 35 years, Mullin was one of the earliest members of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce as well as being an active member of the Knights of Columbus. He founded the Mullin Oldsmobile Agency in 1936 after owning another automobile agency in Torrance previously.

Born in Worcester, Maine, he lived in Nova Scotia, Canada before coming to Torrance.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. P. J. McGuiness at the Church of Nativity Tuesday, January 9. Interment was at Holy Cross Cemetery. Rosary was held at Stone and Myers Chapel last Monday evening. (Continued on Page Two)

C. of C. Gets \$1250 For City Advertising

The City Council Tuesday night appropriated \$1,250, a budget item, to the Torrance Chamber of Commerce for publicity and advertising services during the quarter, October to December, 1950.

Insurance premiums were also appropriated by the City. W. E. Bowen is to receive \$464.12 for (Continued on Page Two)



RETIREES George A. Evans

After 31 Years P.E. Manager Of Torrance Retires

George A. Evans, superintendent of the Torrance Shops, announced his retirement last Friday after serving the Pacific Electric Railway Co. for almost 31 years.

Evans joined P.E. in 1920 as a carpenter and was promoted to foreman and general foreman before becoming superintendent 13 years ago.

Fellow employees gave Evans several gifts at a farewell gathering.

Born in Schenectady, N. Y. Evans came to California at the age of 18 and worked as a carpenter in the old Bijou film studio.

Evans, 71, and his wife have resided at 1024 Portola St., Torrance, for 27 years. He plans a fishing trip and then will devote most of his time to his hobbies of raising flowers and chickens.

Walteria Park To Get Picnic Patio

A picnic patio for the Walteria Park is on the City's building schedule.

Complete with gas burners, tables, and benches, the City Council Tuesday night approved the \$1400 project outlined by the Torrance Recreation Department.

Councilman Nick Dralle moved to concur in the recommendation of the Recreation Department concerning the picnic patio. The motion was seconded by Councilman Willys Blount and was passed unanimously by the four member Council present. Councilman George Powell arrived later.

Wage Hike For Firemen Under Study

Under study by the City Council is a wage increase on the five step plan for the City's firemen.

Received by the City Council Tuesday night was a letter from the Firemen's Association requesting the wage increase. The Civil Service Board also (Continued on Page Two)

Torrance will not have a National Guard armory until "the boys come home."

This was the word received by the Press this week from the office of the adjutant general of California. Torrance was slated to have an armory either for its 578th Engineer (Combat) Battalion, which was stationed at

Torrance Municipal Airport prior to being inducted into the federal service Sept. 1, 1950, or for one or more of its units.

Land was promised by the City of Torrance for the armory, and plans were at one time in preparation.

Other cities got armories, and when San Pedro's Battery A, 682nd Coast Artillery, recently won \$126,000 for additions to its armory, inquiry as to the status of the Torrance armory was made by the Press.

Col. C. H. Aulick, operations and training officer for the office of the adjutant general, told the Press:

"As the unit of the 40th Infantry Division which was located in Torrance is now in Federal service, action on the construction of a new armory in Torrance is being deferred until more accurate information is available as to when this unit of the 40th Infantry Division will return to State service."

The 578th Engineer Combat Battalion is the engineer unit of the 40th division, and now is undergoing training with the division in Camp Cooke.

228th Street Now Open For Public Use

Now opened for public transportation is 228th St. from Sepulveda Blvd. to Western Ave., in Torrance, according to City Manager George Stevens.

The paving of 228th St. was completed by city crews last Friday. Curb and gutter work was done by the subdividers.

Stevens also said that city crews will now do grading and paving work on the streets near the Fern Ave. playground in Torrance. Portions of Fern Ave., Hickory St., Greenwood Ave., Sonoma Ave., and El Dorado St. will be worked on by city crews.

L. Babcock Installed New Masonic Leader

In an impressive formal ceremony last Saturday night, January 6, Leonard E. Babcock was installed worshipful master of the Torrance Masonic Lodge along with eleven other elective and appointive officers. The installation was held in the Torrance Masonic Temple at 8 p.m. Fred Bacon, retiring worshipful master, served as installing master of ceremonies.

Retired Optometrist Exhibits Paintings

Currently exhibiting 26 oil and water color paintings at the public library is Dr. Thomas Lisman, of 1503 Post ave., a retired Torrance optometrist.

This is his first one-man exhibit, although he has painted as a hobby for the past 25 years, he said.

The paintings show striking landscapes and California scenes, favorite subjects of the 50-year-old artist. They represent his work during the past year.

Dr. Lisman, who said he paints in a conservative style, is an active member of the Los Angeles Businessmen's Art club. His work will be displayed at the library through Jan. 17.



THE MASONIC GAVEL passed into new hands last week. Leonard D. Babcock, (left) newly installed worshipful master of Torrance Masonic Lodge receives the symbol of leadership from Fred Bacon (right). Bacon, retiring worshipful master, acted as installing officer at the installation last Saturday evening at the Torrance Masonic Temple. Eleven other elective and appointive officers were installed. (Photo by Bob Roberts Studio)

Gladiolus Growers' Confab Shown Demonstration On Torrance Field

The phenomena of gladiolus blooming in mid-winter was shown Friday, Jan. 5, at Torrance and Palos Verdes to more than 100 eastern, mid-western and Canadian gladiolus growers attending the annual convention, in Los Angeles, of the North American Gladiolus Growers' Council.

The group visited Rancho Palos Verdes gladiolus fields, coming into bloom, as the guest of James Pamplin, Lomita horticulturalist who leases extensive gladiolus fields in the Portuguese Bend section of the Palos Verdes peninsula, and other Palos Verdes growers.

Most of the visitors, coming from cold climates, know gladiolus only as a spring and summer flower. The Palos Verdes gladiolus reach their production peak in mid-winter and are shipped largely to eastern markets.

Prior to visiting Palos Verdes Friday afternoon, the gladiolus growers saw a field demonstration in Torrance where the latest tools, equipment and sprays were demonstrated.

Upon completion of the rigorous training program, the entire group will return to Southern California's 40th Infantry Division to serve as the division's Ranger company.

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